

Malden Historic District  
(4208 Malden Drive)  
Malden  
Kanawha County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-10

HABS  
WVA,  
20-MALD  
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

HABS  
WVA,  
20-MALD,  
11-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4208 Malden Drive

HABS No. WV-210-10

Location: 4208 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia  
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owners: Bernice Argast Eberly (Mrs. Myron Eberly), 407 Cypress  
Drive, Malden, West Virginia 25306; and the Reynolds Estate,  
c/o Mrs. Myron Eberly.

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: This two-story brick house built in 1838 is one of the three  
oldest buildings in Malden. It is unusual for its period in  
having an asymmetrical plan with a large corner stair hall.  
The house makes a major contribution to the Malden Historic  
District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1838
2. Architect: Attributed to Dr. George Hale
3. Original and subsequent owners: The land on which the house now  
stands was originally owned by David Ruffner as recorded at the  
Kanawha County Courthouse in Deed Book H at page 43. Ruffner  
conveyed the lot to John P. Street on March 5, 1835, as recorded  
in Deed Book H at page 603. (The house was erected in 1838.)

On July 12, 1860, John P. Street conveyed the property to Elijah  
Rooke, who devised it to Blanche Reynolds on December 3, 1901, as  
recorded in Deed book 85 page 38. Blanche Reynolds died in 1944  
and willed 1/2 interest to Fred Laidley Reynolds, who in turn  
sold his interest to Bernice Argast Eberly, wife of Myron Eberly,  
on February 12, 1952, as recorded at the Kanawha County  
Courthouse in Deed Book 991 at page 267. The remaining interest  
is owned by the Reynolds Estate.

4. Alterations and additions: The front part of the house is  
relatively unchanged except for one-over-one-light sash in the  
windows and the bevel-edged leaded glass of the front entrance  
transom, sidelights, and door, which appear to date from around  
the turn of the century. A breezeway connecting a summer kitchen  
to the main house was enclosed to make a living room, and a  
kitchen and utility area were added on. After being damaged  
several times by automobiles, the original fence was replaced by  
the present chain-link fence.

B. Historical Context:

Daving Ruffner, a prominent salt maker and land baron of the Kanawha Valley in the early 1800s, who owned about a third of the Malden area was the original owner of this property. After the lot was sold to John P. Street in 1835, the house, one of the three oldest in Malden, was erected in 1838.

Prepared by Donna Sue White  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey Team  
June 1979  
and  
Denys Peter Myers  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
April 1981

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This relatively large (for Malden) asymmetrical brick house of 1838 is late Federal in style. It has a corner hall containing a staircase that is outstanding for Malden. The leaded bevel-edged glass at the front entrance dates from around 1900.
2. Condition of fabric: Maintained with moderate care.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 47'-10" in width and 83'-7" in depth, having a three-bay front. The building is a two-story, squarish block extended to the east by a series of one-story additions and alterations.
2. Foundations: Foundations of the main block are of stone, while those of the rear additions are of brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls of the main two-story block are of solid brick set in a variation of common bond in which three courses of stretchers alternate with one row of headers and stretchers in series. Brick wall surfaces are painted gray. The greater part of the rear additions received gray asphalt shingles as a covering. The rearmost addition is of concrete block painted white.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A continuous, one-story porch adjoins the west and north walls plus that portion of the east wall not encumbered by additions. The porch is entirely of wood. Wooden columns of a classicistic design support a roof which has been covered with a standing seam metal covering. A small shed-roofed stoop occurs at the rear.
5. Chimneys: One end chimney occurs at the south end of the main block, centered about the roof ridge. This chimney is of brick and is crowned by three projecting brick courses creating bands near the top of the chimney. A second chimney occurs on the eastern extension.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The principal doorway occurs on the west facade and consists of a glazed door flanked by side lights. It has a transom panel similar to the side lights. The side lights, transom panel and door each have a single large panel of leaded, bevel-edged glass. The design of the transom and side light glazing is identical.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Windows in the two-story main block are double-hung wooden sash units with one light per sash. Windows in the rear additions are a variety of types, all relatively recent.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roof of the main block is a simple gabled roof whose ridge runs in a north/south direction. To the east, a continuous gabled roof covers the series of rear additions. Those roofs are covered with white asphalt shingles. The main porch is covered by a hipped roof sloping in four directions from the adjacent walls of the main block, around which the porch wraps. The porch roof is surfaced with standing-seam metal roofing painted silver.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: All roof edges project beyond their respective walls, forming eaves which have closed soffits. The cornices on the porch and on the east and west walls of the main block are denticulated above an undecorated frieze zone.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The front faces west onto Malden Drive, being very close to the street. A sizable yard is located to the north of the house.

2. Outbuildings: A two-story concrete-block building, used partly as a shop and partly as an apartment building, occupies the southeast corner of the site.

Prepared by James Murray Howard  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
July 1979

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Old Views: Mr. and Mrs. Myron Eberly, 407 Cypress Drive, Malden, West Virginia, have several old slides and photographs of the house.

2. Bibliography:

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records, Charleston, West Virginia.

Deed Book A at page 43

Deed Book H at page 603

Deed Book 85 at page 38

Deed Book 991 at page 267.

"The Town I Always Call Home"  
Charleston Daily Mail, April 14, 1973

#### Interviews:

Mr. and Mrs. Myron Eberly, 407 Cypress Drive, Malden, West Virginia. (Mrs. Eberly is part owner of the house.)

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.

See Malden Historic District (HABS No. WV-210-10), sheet 6 of 9, for elevation drawing.